The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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NO SWORD IS SO KEEN

BETWEEN Circumcision and Candlemas, the Christian perspective is peculiarly Marian. It is she, the Mother of peace, of joy and sorrow alike, who stands above this part of the story of our salvation, greeting the Wise Men and fulfilling the law, thus making the whole chronicle a record of august family history from which households for twenty centuries have derived guidance and inspiration. Today there is a very especial bond which unites Mary and all earthly mothers. The nations are restless. Drilling and marching as never before, the citizenry of most states seem to be in the mood for another conflict. We may doubt whether economic and political obstacles can be surmounted by many who actually seek a war, but the act of assent to such a war has already been completed. The recent papal allocution, in which the bitter earnestness of the Sovereign Pontiff was not concealed, must not be looked upon as just another "peace talk." It expressed the full moral indignation of one who does not shrink from hardship or sacrifice, but who knows to his sorrow the evidence for the contemporary defection of spirit—the present willingness to say "Yes" to something deeply and grossly wrong.

Such historical moments are a stern test of motherhood. No woman, visualizing her son on a modern battlefield, fails to sense the knife at her heart. The very thought is a wound. And yet, what mother fails to immolate him she holds dearest when the summons to duty and sacrifice is once given? Here, too, she has an example to follow. If Mary had to consent to that Divine resolve which led from manger to cross, what earth-bound woman, enmeshed in the laws which govern our existence, would draw back from the price exacted by social obligation? Granted that it be meet and just to give one's life for the community, it is not the Christian mother who will

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refuse to drink whatever cup is pressed against her lips. Therefore the emotions which are peculiarly hers cannot ever be a deciding factor in the choice between war or peace. It would be socially perilous to dry up the springs from which comes readiness to give.

That dilemma was faced in the very earliest thought which Christendom devoted to the problem of war and peace. Saint Augustine, who was the first to expound a sociology in the spirit of the New Testament, esteemed nations in our modern sense, as people bound together by their love of common possessions. He was also very sensitive to the affection between mother and son, understanding both its tenderness and its innate pledge to higher things. Therefore Augustine wrote that the primary end of all states was the peace, that war was so horrible that leaders should seek to avoid it by every means in their power, and that aggression by powerful governments against those which are weaker was the gravest of social crimes. Still he could not deny that some wars are just, owing to the evil of the human race; and for the sake of that justice it was imperative that the sacrifice even of legitimate aspirations and of otherwise inalienable rights be brought upon the altar of the general good.

From that argument there is no escape. A merely emotional or individualistic pacifism is first of all wrong. It sacrifices willingness to act and suffer for justice's sake in the vain hope of protecting other and lesser rights. Secondly, it is doomed to failure. Whenever a given majority is won over to another policy, either because they seek to escape from intolerable burdens or because the lure of advantages to be gained is too attractive, the individualist is submerged. This logic was already the fruit of Pauline insight; and though some of us may deny it in theory, we are always forced to admit it in practise.

The sole route to progress is therefore that which leads to the suppression of unjust wars and to the elimination of causes of just ones. Such progress is in part the result of human development itself. Technical improvement, economic organization, cultural ties, growth of population—these and other things tend to make war an instrument which defeats justice in the very act of serving it. Not a few thinkers, notably Cardinal Faulhaber, believe that war is already, as a result of these conditions and circumstances, unacceptable to the Christian conscience. On the other hand, most of us feel that something more is needed. Some form of international organization must establish a law violation of which is universally considered wrong and sanctions for the enforcement of which are universally provided. So far only a step in that direction has been taken. A few years ago, Catholic theologians of several nations held that the League of Nations was a rightfully constituted agency of international justice, regard for the collective decisions of which ought to be considered a moral obligation. Today very few of us are able to hold that view. The League has been too greatly weakened by moral and political disaster.

Still, it remains evident that, whatever may have been the insufficiency of organization effected to date, something of the kind is required. Law cannot be enforcd by public opinion alone or by the Church alone. The office of the "temporal power" is as deeply rooted in Christian moral obligation as it is in human reality. All nations will sooner or later have to begin anew the task of rebuilding the League of Nations. The right moment will doubtless have arrived when it is possible to disassociate international assembly from the historical accident of the World War. We cannot expect to continue an organization for justice one of the principal objects of which was to maintain the status of injustice. Indeed, so long as Geneva is even in any sense a symbol of defeat, it must remain relatively inoperative.

When the moment spoken of comes, the peoples must realize that a law-enacting and law-enforcing body cannot be divorced from public opinion or the authority of the Church. This separation invariably means either "liberalistic" ineffectiveness or dictatorship. A country in which the majority of citizens do not respect a law is sooner or later a country in which law is not enforced—or enforced without a trace of concern for legality. Therefore we should all of us be taking a great step forward if the Protestant Churches in all western countries demanded that the seat of the League should be transferred to a territory adjacent to Vatican City and as independent internationally. This act would symbolize, as nothing else could, the resolve of all Christians to dedicate themselves to the service of peace. And being an independent territorial sovereignty, the authority thus established within constitutional limits would be a "power" like unto that which the Christian conscience has always conceived of as an ideal—a power living in the shadow of the Faith but properly the organ of the invisible rather than the visible Church. We believe that such a move would stimulate the flagging hopes of millions as nothing else could. And we are convinced that it might well have the approval of the Catholic Church as well as the ardent goodwill of immense throngs of Protestant citizens, now sorely troubled in conscience by the phenomena of rampant nationalism. Finally, this action might well be that which would reawaken in many hearts the conviction—always weakened, as Newman saw, by the stress of too many experienced evils—that Christ is the salvation of nations as indeed He is, through the humble ministry of Mary, the guarantor of the family.

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Week by Week

GOODBYE to 1934 was said hopefully by very many. Evidence that the structure of our social order was fairly intact, despite the pressure of four unusually disturbed years, combined with omens of naturally produced economic improvement to awaken a good deal of confidence in the future. Perhaps the greatest source of uncertainty was the still unclarified relationship between capital and labor. Many industrialists appeared relatively unable to decide whether the old order was to continue, or even whether business conditions would remain the same long enough to justify wage and salary increases. From far and near came reports of Christmas bonuses, interpreted now as sops to employees and again as augurs of what the future had in store provided a rudimentary upturn developed to maturity. Very particularly certain farm regions, favored by weather and demand, looked back upon the most prosperous year not merely since the depression but even in a decade. The major ominous feature is the level of unemployment. It is this more than any other single thing which must determine the attitude of the incoming Congress toward social and other legislation. As the forecasters looked about, many of them were convinced that such measures as the soldiers' bonus would take precedence over administration plans for social insurance. They averred that the immediate necessities of certain vocal population groups constituted a battering-ram which Washington would not be able to resist. On the other hand there seemed to be no doubt that a general willingness to stand aside and wait for recovery had taken precedence over most other concerns. The country seemed in the mood of a family which detects signs that the fire in the furnace is about to start and which has, therefore, momentarily stopped fumbling with the kerosene can and the matches. At all events, may it be no disappointing new year for any of us!

The Trend of Events

THEORISTS in column of squads march across the American platform these days, and on the whole may be said to have staged an interesting performance. It was evident in the piping times of yore that our community was woefully short of constructive thinkers—of men who, living apart from the muddle of enterprise, had a chance to see what was going on steadily and as a whole. Even so, there can be too much of a good thing. We have therefore done our bit by inviting a number of business men to discuss existing conditions from whatever point of view they deemed advisable. This issue contains the papers they were kind enough to submit. At first sight there would not seem to be much unity in them. One is retrospective; the other looks forward. This writer sees the darker side of the picture; that one is inclined to believe in the legitimacy of a reasonable optimism. Nevertheless we think that a certain obvious unity does exist. Our contributors are anxious to see things just as they are, and all are guided by a living sense of social responsibility. This attitude seems to us characteristic, and we regard it as at least symbolical of one gain derived from years of hardship. The business man has struggled hard to keep afloat. He had to learn how to distinguish between mirages and solid ground. But doing so he has been conscious not merely of himself but also of the hundreds, thousands, dependent on his judgment. It is out of a sense of gratitude for this spirit, as well as for the papers themselves, that we dedicate this issue to the Catholic business man.

Business Men Speak

EUROPE these days is hardly a sanitarium for optimists, but the situation there is by no means as critical as some observers had predicted it would be. The improvement is no doubt largely due to pressure on the German government from groups which realized the need of a more moderate policy and were able to secure what they wanted. Equally beneficial has been the waning of Russian influence which, now that the route through Germany has been closed, is increasingly out of touch with Europe. Good work by diplomats assembled at Geneva prevented the Saar and Jugoslavian crises from erupting into wars. Undoubtedly, however, the realities of business and financial enterprise have been too much for even the most doughty militarists. It is easy to talk of dying gloriously on the field of battle; the job of starving is fairly difficult to wish on any large number of citizens. Perhaps the year, for all its chaos, suffering and fanaticism, has at least made it clear that food and clothing are not gained as the consequence of a brilliant victory on some Sunday afternoon. Europe has lost heavily. Ultra-nationalism has paid dividends in the specie of dwindling trade and diminished credit. We feel that by the close of 1934—as surly and disturbed a year as the Old World has known for many a decade—it has grown relatively clear to a number of people that the road to better times does not lie through folly. From this point to genuine improvement is a long way, to be sure. But is not nearly so far as the road through another accumulation of ghastly ruins would be, and not nearly so difficult to traverse.

The Outlook Abroad

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CURTAILING unemployment remains the most baffling of problems and the greatest challenge to American society. The figures for November, not yet carefully checked, indicate that about 18,500,000 persons were on the relief rolls. While it may possibly indicate some improvement compared with 1933—though even this is doubtful—the number is staggeringly large and the cost tremendous. Measurable improvement would doubtless set in if we were far enough along with recovery to inaugurate a revival of heavy industries. In all probability, however, a long time must pass before the tendency to spend more and hire more filters down through the people. Only a marked and steady improvement in accumulated values (stocks and bonds, property and good name factors) can help us much. Furthermore, the nation must reckon with the circumstance that these years of distress have undoubtedly taught many industries, and in particular many homes, to get along without help which once seemed normal. Shorter working days have, for instance, encouraged the development of amateur carpentry and house-painting. This trend can, of course, be reversed forcibly, either by labor organizations using stern tactics or by government fiat. The outlook for such measures is, however, not very great. We shall be compelled for a long time to reckon with government relief and employment. It is therefore imperative to think in the terms of the best possible human and financial engineering. Mr. Hopkins's recommendation that "permanent unemployables" be referred to states and cities seems a move in the right direction because it leaves the federal agencies free to deal with remediable situations.

Work and Relief

THERE is a strong probability that out of the welter of debating and legislation by the present Congress, the most significant development in its long run effect will be the emergence of what will amount to a Labor party in United States politics. The division in the existing Republican and Democratic parties has already amounted in fact to a realignment of new parties that cut directly across old party lines. Progressive Republicans, for instance, can be counted on much more surely to vote against than with Old Guard Republicans, so that the Republican part of the label is a meaningless, when it is not a misleading, survival. In the Democratic forces, now numerically so large, there has been to date a far greater coherence of effort under the generalship of the President; but there are many signs that Democracy will split on the subject of experimenting with money, on the soldiers' bonus and the thirty-hour week, the latter of which measures are expected to pass and receive a presidential veto. Though lacking the simple designations of Progressive and Old Guard, the differences between, say, Carter Glass Democrats and Huey Long Democrats have already been frequently noted as a strain on the reasonableness of grouping them under the same party label. In this confused situation, we have the salient fact reported by the New York *Herald Tribune* that, "no more powerful bloc will be represented at the Capitol than labor." The political power of labor was clearly demonstrated at the polls in the elections to the current Congress, and there can be little doubt that labor issues and the men of existing political parties who will unite in supporting them, will greatly affect the struggle for survival in 1936. At the present session, labor will concentrate on the thirty-hour week and whether the obvious difficulties to be expected if this measure is passed are worse than the suffering of 10,000,000 unemployed, the non-productive cost of their relief and their threat to the stability of all our going enterprises and institutions, is a question that, very likely, we will see settled by trial rather than words.

Labor's Part in Politics

WASTE is always wrong, and the report of public waste is always shocking. And when the thing wasted, or reported as being wasted, is food kept in storage for the relief of large numbers of the unemployed, the resulting impression upon the general mind is often seriously demoralizing. This situation has prevailed currently in New York, where the charge that many commodity stores have spoiled through careless and inefficient handling has been heard following an investigation into the city's food relief administration. Such suspicions and accusations are inevitable, of course, in any emergency project of large proportions, and it is not at all necessary to doubt the good faith of those who have brought them in this case. By the same token, the accusers, as well as the public at large, will welcome the subsequent pronouncement of Mr. Hopkins, the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, which declares that the charge is actually "not borne out by the facts." "Thorough investigation and expert inspection," he assures the citizens, show that the food relief here is well handled, and that the emergency supplies are carefully stored. For particulars, such staples as veal, cabbage and potatoes are found to have suffered only the minimum of spoilage normal in the best systems. It may be fortunate that this situation was precipitated. It should reassure both the taxpayer, whose contributions are involved in this large-scale giving, and the unfortunate citizen who is forced temporarily to subsist on its bounty.

Food Wastage

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CURRENTS AND CROSS-CURRENTS

By BERNARD J. ROTHWELL

After summarizing what seem to him the major forces and trends operative in the given economic situation, Mr. Rothwell discusses the Catholic social ethic. He says that economic ills could be remedied quickly if the papal encyclicals were obeyed, but that this obedience does not imply subscription to any of the especial methods sometimes prescribed. To assert the contrary is, he thinks, dangerous. Mr. Rothwell describes the attitude of the President as one of "sincerity and unselfish devotion."—The Editors.

IN CONSIDERING present trends cross-currents are so numerous that it is difficult to predict the final outcome of existing world-wide political, economic and social upheaval. One may be led to recall Hamlet's well-known soliloquy; for many there are who "would rather bear those ills we have than fly to others we know not of."

That attitude, however, leads nowhere, other than to increased discontent, for it is only by experiment, by trial and error along previously untrodden paths, that there is any possibility of emerging from our present slough. An opinion may, however, be hazarded as to the causes responsible for our present plight, the cross-currents, general trend and ultimate destination.

Causes:

Greed—national, international, corporate and individual.

Lust for power, inordinate wealth and selfish advantage, by no means confined to any special group.

Fear and distrust between nations and between groups; war clouds hovering over Europe and the Far East.

Lawlessness (aside from criminal which now challenges the supremacy of government itself).

Disrespect for all authority, Divine and human alike, begetting atheism and anarchy.

Irreligion—Failure to apply the fundamentals of Christianity and our professed beliefs in every-day affairs and contacts.

Cross-currents:

Forebodings of those so obtuse as to advocate restoration of policies which blew up in 1929.

Preachments of extremists who would revolutionize, overnight, an economic system which despite glaring abuses, not to be condoned, and now gradually being eliminated, afforded the masses in the United States, at least, the highest standard of living on the face of the globe. Stripped of its defects, it still gives promise of greater individual opportunity, collective prosperity, and happiness, than any other system yet devised.

Radical, frequently visionary, agitation advocating mass action, and inciting violence; the abuse of "free speech"; its effect has been evidenced in connection with various industrial strikes; in deliberately planned bombings and other destructive activities.

Increasingly active and virulent atheistic propaganda through the circulation of numerous atheistic, communistic and anti-social daily, weekly and monthly publications, often among those in early youth.

Conflicting public utterances of those understood to be high in the nation's councils; consequent uncertainty as to policies to be pursued; monetary stabilization, regimentation of industry, limitation of production, competition by the government with established, publicly owned enterprises in which billions of money, the dependence of millions of depositors and policy-holders, is invested by savings banks, insurance companies and other custodians of trust funds. The repeated suggestion of such competition has already jeopardized, and, if undertaken, would wipe out these investments.

Insistence by an organized, clamorous minority of those actively engaged in the World War for payment of bonus of some $2,500,000,000, eleven years in advance of maturity, with reckless disregard of the present drain upon the national resources, its harmful effect upon the national credit and upon the primary aim of the administration to accomplish resumption of industrial activity.

Widespread disposition to take dishonest advantage of the government in its unprecedented efforts to alleviate distress, to provide public works employment and to prevent dispossession of homes by owners temporarily unable to meet their mortgage obligations.

The, perhaps, inevitable let-down in the morale of beneficiaries owing to the prolonged depression, unemployment and the essential distribution of relief funds. As with the dole in England, many are disposed to regard public relief as a permanent right, and will be disinclined to resume employment even where the wage would equal or exceed the relief.

Trends:

A clearly demonstrated world-trend during the past few years has been increasing distrust of democracy; even in this country there is dissatisfaction with and distrust of parliamentary gov-

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ernment; its tardiness in responding to public sentiment; its waste of time in long-drawn-out fruitless discussion; its unwarrantable filibustering, as witness its eight-year battledore and shuttlecock with the World Court protocols which both the Democratic and Republican parties in their 1932 platforms solemnly pledged themselves to have adopted without further delay; log-rolling, etc.; the handicap of senatorial veto and of senatorial and congressional courtesy; its subservience to powerful corporate interests and to organized minorities, thus fatally impairing its efficiency and rendering it useless in emergencies. Any attempt to abolish these abuses receives scant consideration. The members refuse to see the "handwriting on the wall."

In foreign countries this has brought about dictatorship in one form or another, and in the face of the emergency and imminent catastrophe that confronted the United States early in 1933, powers heretofore reserved to the Congress were unavoidably and unhesitatingly vested in the President.

The persistent demand of large industrial and high financial interests for less participation by the government in business, while combinations, consolidation of combinations and holding companies, engineered by financial promoters, have given impetus to the unmistakable trend toward a still larger participation or regulation. To that extent we have been steadily moving toward state socialism; whether many of these steps can later be retraced, regardless of the desire of the government to retrace them, is a grave question. It is a process of evolution and evolution rarely moves backward.

The enormous bureaucracy, constantly being augmented; the remote possibility of its ultimate reduction, and the absorption of the millions now upon E.R.A., C.C.C. or P.W.A. rolls, present one of the most serious phases of the existing situation.

Conclusions:

In connection with the problem of reemployment, there exists today little opportunity for plant extension. Most industries are already heavily overbuilt; if run to anything like capacity the market would be swamped with production far in extent of consumptive capacity.

For well-designed residential areas, skilfully planned small homes and the clearing up of slum districts there is practically an unlimited demand. If responded to, this would quickly set in motion a multitude of collateral industries.

The coming year will be a crucial one, further testing patience and confidence of the masses in the final success of governments "of, by and for the people." We face a stiff up-hill climb, and while progress is under way and promises to be steady, it necessarily must be gradual rather than sensational.

In sum, the basic cause of distress, discontent and unrest may be traced directly to general disregard of the fundamental teachings of Christianity, and of social justice. Were the principles so clearly enunciated in the encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI universally practised, major difficulties would rapidly be surmounted.

The word "principles" may be used advisedly, for neither encyclical suggests, much less determines, in itemized detail, how complex economic questions, as inflation or deflation of values, money or commodities, coinage, ratio of gold and silver, import duties, taxation and other fiscal policies of the gravest domestic and international moment are to be solved.

In advocating the principles of social justice, as should be done most earnestly and persistently, such intricate details are clearly beyond the domain of theology.

It is dangerous, when government is making strenuous effort to promote the general welfare, for those not highly trained in the economic sciences involved to put forth dogmatically—sometimes in inflammatory terms—personal dicta for their solution, and to demand adoption. This savors somewhat of dictatorship. It is the end to be gained rather than the identical plans to be employed in its accomplishment which the encyclicals of these illustrious Sovereign Pontiffs emphasize.

The foregoing indicates, imperfectly, the sea of perplexities through which the President is courageously steering the Ship of State; that he will guide it into safe anchorage is the hope, prayer and belief of the vast majority of his fellow countrymen, of whose confidence in his sincerity and unselfish devotion to their well-being he has had convincing proof.

Words to a Painter

(Standing before his canvas of a woman.)

A constant melancholy seems to dwell
About the simple candor of her eyes.
Some grave and certain premonitions rise
Full in her breast and stir its curves to swell
Disquiet. And her hand, a fluted shell
Of ivory, tries to call—see how it tries.
And see the impulse on her lip that cries
Mute utterance—perhaps to say "Farewell."

She looks to you, foreknowing your deathly flight.
O master, see once more this pigment elf.
For though she stays unageing in the light,
The light will draw her, faded, to itself.
And after that the mocked and mottled cloth
Will all disintegrate before the moth.

LeGarde S. Doughty.

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THE STORE IN 1935

By P. A. O'CONNELL

ALL BUSINESS opinion today seems to be divided into three parts: (1) The great majority of people believe that business in 1935 will show a continued gradual improvement. (2) A few, fearing the effect of increased governmental indebtedness and taxation, are pessimistic. (3) A few are planning for a sharp and very pronounced upturn in business, probably beginning in the spring and carrying through the year.

My own opinion is with that of the third group. From a study of history we know that never has a vast accumulation of bank reserves, and the power to greatly expand credit, failed to open the way, eventually, to a large increase in business. By itself, such potential credit expansion is sterile; but when it is mated with the impulse of widespread public confidence, it never yet has failed to produce business prosperity.

For the past three years, capital has been accumulating, either idle or poorly employed. Legislation in 1933 and 1934 greatly broadened the credit base of both the banks and the government. We have right now the credit power to finance the greatest boom this country has ever known. Money is extremely cheap and promises to continue so, even for a long time after industrial demand appears. But fully as important is the fact that confidence among business men and the entire consuming public already has been restored to a very considerable extent. Two years ago you could not find more than one man out of five who really felt sure the upward turning point in the depression had been reached. A year ago at this time the ratio of honest optimists had risen to about three out of five. Today the proportion of people who feel reasonably certain that 1935 is going to be a better year than 1934 is more than four out of every five. This change in public sentiment is reaching a point where, combined with the unlimited facility of credit, it can bring about a very sudden and substantial increase in total business.

One of the most helpful developments has been the recognition by the administration in Washington that individual initiative and the profit motive are indispensable to business recovery. The moment business men feel there is a fair chance to make some money, they are quick enough to start new projects. Anyone who is not in business to make money is not in business. When taxation and regulation threaten to take all or most of profits, business stops. All business involves risk. Unless there also is a possibility of profit, no one is going to undertake the hazard of new business venture. This truth now appears to be understood by most of the radical element in Congress and a much more friendly attitude seems evident toward legitimate profit making.

Outlook for better business conditions and more employment also points to larger volume of retail trade, for retail sales are directly measured by the buying power and confidence of the consuming public. During 1934, retail sales, at least in the department and specialty stores of the country, are estimated to have been between 10 percent and 15 percent larger than in 1933. Prices averaged about the same as in 1933, indicating that the sales gain in terms of dollars also was a corresponding gain in the actual amount of goods sold.

The question of net profits, however, is another matter. For the past five years the average retail store in the United States has been losing money. This does not mean that every store lost money but that more stores had losses than made a profit. These figures, compiled each year by the Harvard University School of Business Administration, show that in 1932 the average store lost $.064 per dollar of net sales. In 1933 the loss was considerably smaller, being $.021 per dollar of sales. Complete figures for 1934 are not yet gathered but apparently the year was not more profitable than in 1933. Part or all the earnings from larger volume of sales were taken in higher wages and other costs under the NRA. The fact that prices were not advancing during 1934 also removed another source of profit which had helped very much the year before.

Retailers are hoping that, if 1935 brings a further increase in volume of sales, they may work back to the position where at least the average store again will show a profit. This of course is very important from the standpoint of national welfare as upwards of 5,000,000 people are employed in the retail stores of the country; also it will mean that the stores then can spend more for advertising and promotion to create a market for still more goods.

It is quite obvious, however, that any taxes or other costs that are imposed on retailing will have to be passed on by the stores to the consuming public. A 1 percent or 2 percent sales tax may not seem very heavy, but it represents a larger amount of money than was made by the average retail store in a year of fair prosperity. Now that the stores on the average are making no profit at all, it is quite certain that they cannot

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absorb any new taxes, but must charge them onto the price paid by the consumer.

The prospect of sales taxes, nevertheless, is very disturbing to retailers because they know well how sensitive the demand for merchandise is to price. Every fraction added to price cuts down the volume of goods sold. If the merchants had thought they could charge $.02 more on the dollar without suffering a corresponding, or even greater, loss in volume, you may be assured they would have charged it during the years when they have been taking severe losses.

Our government, federal, state and city, should have this point of view clearly in mind. The greatest need today is for greater distribution of merchandise. If too heavy a burden is put onto the shoulders of the consuming public, it means reduced consumption, less employment and the need of still more taxes for relief work. Retail merchants are fully aware of this fact, which accounts for their serious concern over the present experiments in consumer taxation.

The same principle applies to price fixing and certain "fair practise" provisions in manufacturers' codes that raise prices faster than the consumers' ability to pay. On the other hand, the influence of the NRA in outlawing sweatshops and establishing at least a livable minimum wage has helped business, and the great majority of merchants will be found strongly in favor of continuing this provision. Starvation wages do not make good buying power, good business or good citizens.

Even the minimum wages now prescribed by NRA should be increased as rapidly as consumer demand will permit. To advance wages too rapidly, as some of the unions are now trying to do, would defeat its own purpose, because the millions of other consumers would not be able to buy. Consequently employment would decline and the law of supply and demand would eventually force a readjustment.

In all its social and economic experiments to speed national recovery, the very best guide the government can use is the trend of retail trade—especially the physical volume of goods sold. This is the measure against which to test the success or failure of each effort. As long as each advance in wages, or shorter hours of labor, produce an increase in total retail buying, we can be sure that such higher wages or shorter hours are economically justified; but the moment that higher wage costs result in smaller retail trade, or even a slower rate of increase in trade, then it shows that the limit of increasing wage cost has been reached, for the time being at least.

At the moment, many of our politicians seem very enthusiastic over the possibility of taxing consumer purchases. They reason that $.02 or $.03 on each dollar spent will not make much difference to the consumer. The point they overlook is that any amount taken from consumers reduces by that much the amount of goods sold, which means less goods produced and less employment. So far the public has not fully realized this, and probably will not until after considerable damage has been done.

As far as 1935 is concerned, however, even unwise forms of taxation probably will not be enough to stop the improvement in business. I believe we shall find that the business pump has been primed much better than has yet appeared. Many of the steps taken by the administration to stimulate business have a delayed effect. Their full force has not yet been felt, but before this year is over I believe we shall see a very substantial increase in employment and in retail trade.

Lullaby

My brother the wind and my sister the rain.—Saint Francis of Assisi.

My brother the wind,
Stir nothing here
Upon this small
Knoll where she now
Untroubled lies
Under the thinned
Leaves as they fall,
Sapless and sere.
Lest once her eyes
Fill and her brow
Lift to be kist—
And the deceit
Prove her less meet—
Gently desist
Sighing a while,
Lest she should smile,
My brother the wind.

My sister the rain,
Be kind, be kind
As to a flower
Fallen asleep,
Clasping a dream.
Be but a mist
Woven of air,
So that it seem
Yet as a veil,
Lest love may fail
And she should find
Death over there.
Ere she yet keep
With him a tryst
In some dark hour,
Bid her refrain
From a swift change,
Lest she know strange
Sorrows—and weep,
My sister the rain.

WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

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CREDIT DELUSION

By ERNEST F. DuBRUL

ONE GREAT trouble with human beings is that they are so human. A boom is so glamorous that we want business to be booming all the time. We are not satisfied with anything so unexciting as a stage of business about halfway between boom and depression levels. It is quite human to think, when we are enjoying a state of bliss, that we ought to enjoy greater bliss. This notion is inherited, no doubt, from Adam and Eve who also wanted something just a little better than Paradise.

In every boom the larger part of our business men labor under a delusion. If they did not, there would be no boom. The delusion is that the last depression was abnormal and will not be repeated, because the business men of that particular New Era have finally invented a non-collapsible boom. This delusion gets to be widespread, and anyone daring to express doubts about the infallibility of this idea is anathematized. But this leads to trouble later on. Having been assured that this particular boom is so built that it cannot collapse, the hoi polloi, who do most of the suffering in the following depression, complain loudly when the unavoidable misery strikes them. This is also quite a human reaction for them.

In spite of the collapse, however, in every following depression the same desire for a non-collapsible boom is manifested in prescriptions for quickly building another boom which, of course, will never collapse. Economic history shows that mob psychology repeats five popular prescriptions. These quintuplets are credit expansion, debasement of metallic money, issuance of fiat paper money, raising prices, and repudiation of debts. All five are popular today and have been put into effect lately, on a wide scale. It is notable that all these quintuplets are connected to one umbilical cord, which is debt. Credit expansion means expansion of debt. Devaluation, issuing fiat paper money, and raising prices are proposed to make debts easier to pay. Debtor relief is to cancel debts after they have been expanded.

These connections with debt are quite understandable, because all booms are created by spending large gobs of credit—which, of course, is debt. It is quite obvious that credit is purchasing power, and that when it is being used on an expanding scale to buy goods there is a gratifying increase in employment to produce the goods. It is also obvious that when credit is not being used as freely as it had been used, employment declines from its previous level. What is not so obvious is that our delectable boom activities could never be attained unless unsound credits were issued in large amounts. Unsound credits will buy just as many goods and create just as much activity as sound credits, and when issued they add to the purchasing power of the moment, just so much more than is furnished by sound credit and by actual savings. It is this addition which pushes business into the abnormally high speed of a boom which is so exhilarating. Sound credit never expands rapidly. It is a fact of history that rapid expansion of credit has always been a reliable indication that much of the expansion is in unsound credits. This fact has been pointed out in boom after boom, but it never registers when it should.

Since credit is debt, sound credit is debt which will not be an excessive burden for a debtor to pay, while unsound credit is debt which will be an excessive burden on him if paid—and much of it is paid—or will be a loss to the creditor if not paid. It is much easier to formulate that definition than it is to apply it in practise. But precisely because it is not applied in practise, we create unsound credit every once in a while in large amounts, and our booms are produced by spending it.

At some time in every boom, it inevitably becomes apparent that large quantities of outstanding credit are unsound. Then there is a quite human disposition for bankers not to increase the certainty of loss, and to stop issuing unsound credits. It is also quite human in such times for them to be so worried as to restrict what would be normally quite sound credit. This affects business activity and employment directly, and inevitably. For illustration, let us suppose that credits, sound and unsound, were being injected into our economic system at any given rate per day, say, $20,000,000. Now suppose that the credit injectors, who are the bankers, wake up to the fact that half of those credits are unsound, and stop the further injection only of unsound credits. Business activity from that time on would be $10,000,000 less per day than they were before, and there would be no more employment for men who had been paid previously by the use of $10,000,000 of unsound credit. If restriction of the flow of credit is very great, recession in activity must necessarily be great.

Even though all credits were sound, if optimism would persist in running in waves, the granting of credits would still be concentrated in short spaces of time, and so waves in business would

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persist. If an individual spends either credit or cash to build a house, he creates a certain amount of business activity. When the house is finished, that particular man's creation of house-building activity is finished. If many individuals decide, as they do, to build houses at about the same time, the total activity they create is concentrated within a short period of time. The building business then requires the services of more workmen than if their house building were spread out. Then when those houses are finished, activity is over so far as that group is concerned. Unless others start building immediately, the workmen previously employed will be idle. This is precisely what happens, because houses are built on waves of optimism during which much credit becomes available.

Those who desire a non-collapsible boom financed by credit will have to invent some sort of debt which will never have to be repaid to anyone. Then no more troubles should arise from debt burdens. Until such credit is invented we shall not be able to produce the non-collapsible boom of our dreams.

Space limitations do not permit an explanation here of the mechanism whereby excessive credits are created by our financial institutions. But they have this power merely because the laws governing these institutions are drawn so as to permit unsound credits being created. We have such laws because the delusion has prevailed through all our nation's existence that credit should be "liberal." After each depression, we have passed laws which permit its being made more liberal than before. Hence we have had increasingly active and more gorgeous booms, financed by more and more unsound credit. Naturally, the reactions have been deeper and deeper, but we have never taken to heart the lessons that each depression should have taught us, lessons that have been pointed out over and over again. We shall probably not learn them before a final smash of this "creditism" wrecks our civilization. Business men, bankers, politicians and hoi polloi have all chased the same old will-o'-the-wisp of easy credit after every depression, and chased it faster to each new boom's inevitable smash. All the present policies of increasing government debts, of encouraging private debts, of granting debtor relief, of government banking, cheap credit and money debasement are repetitions of century-old attempts to reach the Utopia of a non-collapsible boom.

People who have acquired even small means know that they should not lend their own money to anyone who may ask them for a loan. They feel very indignant, and very properly too, if a bank closes its doors and does not pay its depositors on demand, as it contracted to do. Yet many, even people of considerable means, think that somehow or other a bank should lend almost everyone just about all the credit that he would like to use, whenever, and for as long a time, and for whatever purpose he may want it. They cannot seem to understand that it was because too many banks did too much of that sort of thing that so many depositors could not get their money when they had a right to expect it.

"We, the sovereign people of the United States," allow our legislators to pass laws which encourage the banks to issue more and more unsound credits. The mass of us do not ask for such laws, of course, but trust our legislators to pass laws that will make for safe banking. It is the bankers who ask for and get such laws, and who prevent the passage of laws that will keep banks within bounds of safety, which have been known for centuries. "Liberal" bank credit is always too liberal with the depositor's money. But even the worst smash in our history has not impressed this on us.

A banker who is a trustee for his depositors may not in good morals be reckless with other people's money. He should conform to rules of banking which the experience of many generations have worked out as being safe. But, unfortunately, not enough bankers have both the knowledge of these rules and the moral stamina to conform to them. Those who both know and follow the right rules do not have serious difficulty in paying their depositors in full on demand, unless so many banks are rotten as to create a universal panic. It is only those who deviate from these age-old rules who lose their depositors' money. Then, to protect the depositors of the rotten banks, Congress passes deposit insurance laws which levy on the sound banks to pay for the losses in the rotten ones. This will not prevent unsound credit being created to the general detriment. That can be done only by compelling all banks to conduct their business according to time-tested rules of sound banking. Unfortunately for us all, the competent and honest bankers are not backing up the proper demand that all bankers shall abide by these old, well-known rules. For their own protection, as well as the public good, the really competent and honest bankers should lead in this demand instead of being silent. For very obvious reasons, we shall continue to have unsound banking. The most obvious reason is that the national administration is more intent than ever in financing its grandiose schemes with credit forced from the banks who are too much under governmental domination now to resist this movement.

All of the five prescriptions mentioned have been used many times in recorded history. Repudiation is now considered noble because we call it "debtor relief." Debasement of the money is ennobled when called "devaluation." But regard-

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less of their new names, their effects will surely be just the same as they always have been. In spite of modern notions to the contrary, the same causes are certain to produce the same effects, because we have not become as economic gods any more than our forebears, who took the same poisons. Those who think that these five prescriptions will produce prosperity blandly wave aside the facts that only ten years ago Germany took large doses of all five of them with disastrous results. But realistic observers of human behavior may be excused for entertaining doubts as to these remedies producing the better life here. The realists do not doubt that these prescriptions will produce activity for a while, as they have done elsewhere. But because these economic stimulants have always produced collapse after being taken in large doses, they see no reason to believe that they will act differently here in our country.

We have started down the very same road, paved with good "pretentions," which Germany trod in reaching its present economic and political state. The German government used the Reichsbank to finance government deficits just as our government is using our banks today, with far less excuse than the Germans had. When the unsoundness of this policy became obvious, more and more paper money was issued until nominal values were expressed in fantastic figures. The realist has no reason to accept as infallible, complacent assurances that we can never go so far on this road as other nations have gone. The realist sees no reason to expect that some Divine miracle will save us from the consequence of our own acts.

Very large doses of all five prescriptions have been administered lately to our nation when it was in collapse from excessive credit expansion. They have not produced the activity expected, so bigger doses are in course of preparation, as has always been done whenever these poisonous prescriptions have been resorted to. While no one can forecast either the time or the extent of the final collapse that will result, it requires no prophet to forecast its inevitability. Nor is it prophecy to predict that the same old alibi will be trotted out, and worked overtime, that no one could possibly foresee that a collapse must result.

INDUSTRIAL THINKING

By EDWARD J. MEHREN

IN DISCUSSIONS of the depression, one seldom hears reference to the need to increase year by year the purchasing power of the masses—of the wage earners, skilled and unskilled, and of the middle class. Least of all does one hear it from the industrialist. Yet on its application depends the coninued health and expansion of industry as a whole.

The industrialist knows, in a hazy way, the importance of the consumer. He knows that business would promptly be good if people could buy. What he misses is that the power age is blocked unless, year after year, our whole citizenry, and therefore individual men and women, have increased purchasing power.

Further, he does not realize that the creation of customers for the American manufacturer has been, and is being, slowed up. There is no immigration. The birth-rate is declining; so rapidly that our population, statisticians assure us, will be stationary within twenty-five years. Foreign consumers of American manufactured goods grow fewer every year, because of speeding industrialization throughout the world.

The inevitable conclusion is that the manufacture of new customers tends to zero, and that the only hope of continued expansion of our industries lies in increasing the buying power of our present population, or of one not much larger. In no other way can we absorb the volume of goods and services that is constantly increasing through the use of improved machinery and processes.

It may be contended that there is little value in considering principles governing the expansion of industry when even the present capacity is not employed. With that contention I cannot agree. The understanding of a specific problem is always illumined if the controlling fundamental is understood. Further, the remedy developed will more nearly be right if the fundamentals are considered.

For example, in the present instance, an appreciation of the need of constantly increasing purchasing power would develop as great a concern for the welfare of customers as the manufacturer now has for the efficient operation of his plant. It would stimulate him to thrust aside all handicaps to that end. Changes in our banking system, even in his own proportionate compensation, would courageously be made, just as at great sacrifice he improves his plant and his operating methods. I have faith that America's industrialists will act courageously once they see that their future depends on steady increase of individual purchasing power, that is, the extension to the entire public of more and more of the physical good things of life.

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This attitude would be effective not only for the long pull, but for courageous grappling with the present situation.

If it be contended that the industrialists' present concern over unemployment is evidence of his appreciation of the broad problem here discussed, I can answer that the conclusion is not valid for most of the industrialists I have met. Here and there the principle is accepted, but not widely.

A corollary to this principle also lacks recognition, not alone by industrialists but by labor leaders, the latter in this respect being more obtuse than the former—the corollary that year by year we can divide only what we currently produce. Of course, the distribution of the annual income properly deserves our attention. But of much more importance is the study of ways of increasing the production of wealth so that there will be more to divide. Why talk of the thirty-hour week as permanently arrived or desirable when the standard of living for great numbers is so low? True, a different distribution of income would raise the standard, but that alone, without increase in wealth production, would produce a result below the desideratum.

It will, of course, be recognized that the argument for constant increase in purchasing power can be equally well based on the grounds of social justice. That is effective with some. But more potent, in our work-a-day world, is that based on self-interest. That is why I have chosen the factual and more material approach.

How secure general industrial acceptance of these ideas? The answer is: by constant repetition of them by word and by ink, by all who have mouths and pens. The process is an educational one, and, unless there be many teachers, progress will be slow.

REGULATING COMPETITION

By RICHARD DANA SKINNER

THE QUITE important distinction between regulated competition and planned economy is in danger of being hopelessly scrambled. As the former involves merely applied common sense and wholesome ethics, while the latter implies sweeping changes in the relation of the individual to the state, the present widespread confusion of the two is anything but a trivial accident.

Regulated competition is merely an applied doctrine of fair play. It is meant to outlaw the popular business pastime of hitting below the belt. The principle is as old as the laws of sport. In fact, it is good sportsmanship applied to economic life. But its purpose is distinctly not to outlaw the element of struggle, any more than boxing rules are meant to outlaw boxing, or football rules meant to outlaw football, or the ballot meant to outlaw the struggle of political parties. If anything, regulation tends to heighten competition by giving some assurance that skill in management and good judgment in distribution will receive a deserved reward. It seeks the elimination of merely brutal pressure, of sweated labor being used to undermine products of honest industry and fair wages, of thugs and racketeers displacing the efforts of intelligent salesmen, of the financially powerful freezing out smaller but inherently efficient units. All this approaches the self-evident, and would need no explanation were it not for the recent mixing up of the idea of fair play with the wholly different idea of eliminating competitive play entirely.

Planned economy is almost the negation of the idea of competition. It is clearly an outgrowth of the monopoly instinct. That instinct, of course, is not confined to capitalistic business organizations. Russia today is the extreme example of the monopoly instinct at work. The point is that an instinct for monopoly is wholly incompatible in the same field of activity with an instinct for competition. To state this fact is not to condemn planned economy. It is merely to clarify the issue. Planned economy in one field can easily live side by side with regulated competition in another field. A gymnasium class may spend the entire morning doing exercises in planned harmony of motion, and the members of that class may spend the entire afternoon in competitive sports. The morning is given to physical culture, the afternoon to games. Each has its place and its utility. Each presents a sharp contrast to a free-for-all fight, but that alone does not make them in the least alike.

In looking back at the free-for-all fight of economic *laissez-faire,* we have fallen into the slovenly habit of considering everything opposed to *laissez-faire* as part and parcel of one idea. We call it all "regimentation," which is quite as absurd as calling both an army drill and a football game a regimentation of athletics. If clear thinking is an essential precedent to effective action, we must begin our work of economic reconstruction with the clearest possible separation of problems requiring regulation from those requiring cooperative planning.

There are obvious cases where a planned economy is of the utmost human value. Nearly

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always, these cases are found to coincide with a natural and recognized advantage in monopoly management. Certain forms of transportation and communication are ready examples. One recalls with some dismay the early days of the telephone and its competing systems when one might or might not happen to subscribe to the same telephone system as one's best friends. It usually ended in being obliged to have two telephones in the house and thus to pay double charges for a single type of service. Unification of telephone service, and careful annual planning of all extensions and improvements of facilities proved to be a great national benefit. It is equally obvious that the city should assume the sewerage monopoly, and we are reasonably thankful when plans are carefully enough made to avoid digging up the streets every two or three years.

By extension of this simple idea, we can find ready enough justification for planning in many other fields on the large ground of public convenience and interest. This is particularly true of industries whose products are somewhat standardized and have a so-called "inelastic" demand. Certain types of agriculture furnish cases in point. Science may some day find other uses for wheat and corn than merely food supply. We may discover economical ways of making our newsprint paper and many of our building materials out of annual crops, instead of from forests that take twenty to forty years to grow. But until science lends this helping hand to agriculture, and thus gives it a chance to share in general rising prosperity and activity, the demand for food products is relatively inelastic. There is a limit to what a given population can eat, no matter how prosperous the times. If domestic wheat and corn production is sufficient to satisfy all our needs, and if foreign countries are producing enough for their own populations, no useful purpose is served by producing twice as much wheat and corn as can possibly be consumed at home and abroad. If demand is limited by human capacity, then the only possible way to avoid a ruinous price level is to limit supply in some general proportion to maximum demand. Thus, after allowing for a reasonable surplus against lean crop years, a little agricultural planning can often avoid a serious catastrophe to farm prices, to the buying power of the farmer and indirectly to the industries from which the farmer buys.

But whenever we have an industry or a group of industries whose products have a highly elastic potential demand, the whole essence of the problem changes at once. We know that economic life is maintained by the exchange of goods and the product of labor between man and man, or between one industrial group of men and another. The standard of living rises when each group produces more and has more to exchange. If one group produces shoes and another produces neckties, there is nothing in human nature to make us think that the shoemakers will not relish having twenty neckties a year instead of five or that the necktie makers will not appreciate having five pairs of shoes a year instead of two. This progressive and increasing process of barter and exchange breaks down only when the financial mechanism of exchange becomes clogged or when some large group, producing a product with inelastic demand, can no longer exchange more of its product for more and more of the desirable luxuries. For the vast majority of our industries, however, it is true that the more goods they produce, the more purchasing power they derive for the goods produced by other industries. To attempt a planned economy in such cases, in the sense of setting arbitrary limits upon annual production, is to miss the whole essence of economic life. It is to assume that present demand should govern supply, instead of realizing that a larger supply is inherently likely to stimulate a larger demand.

At this point it is quite logical to raise a thousand complex and related questions of wage scales, working hours, and the troublesome effect of an antique and ineffective financial machinery. But that is precisely where we enter the sphere of regulation as distinct from planning. If we limit the output or quota of this or that manufacturer, we are attempting to plan supply and demand. But if we merely insist upon certain rules of competitive equality between two manufacturers, such as similar wage scales and working hours and sales practises, we are substituting the fair play of regulation for an arbitrary effort at planning. The trouble in recent years has been that we have ignored this distinction of principle entirely. We have been so disgusted with the brutality of *laissez-faire* that we have not stopped to analyze the remedies needed in wholly contrasting economic fields. We try planning, with some measure of justification, for the wheat grower, and then try, quite illogically, to apply a similar method to the house builder or the shoemaker.

Our business men, in drawing up their codes, are not content with the regulatory idea as to wages, working conditions and selling methods, but seek to bring in the planning idea of price fixing and the conservation of obsolete plant as part of the price structure. We are not faced with a choice between planned economy and regulated competition, but simply and solely with a decision as to which principle applies in a given case. When and if we can unscramble these two ideas and use each where it belongs, we may begin to achieve some helpful measure of economic common sense.

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BAVARIA HELPS AMERICA

By THEODORE ROEMER

IN A RECENT article, "Catholics in Germany," (THE COMMONWEAL, June 29, 1934), George N. Shuster made the statement that "the Church of the Old World sent not wealth merely but the lifeblood of its noblest sons for the sake of the Faith in a pioneer wilderness. And nowhere was the tide of treasure poured out more unstintingly than in Germany." Certainly this statement is eloquently verified in the work of one of the German mission societies, the Ludwig-Missionsverein.

During the nineteenth century three European mission societies were interested in the Catholic immigrants of the United States. The first was founded in France and had branches throughout Europe; it was the Paris-Lyons Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The other two were the Leopoldine Foundation, founded in Austria for the express purpose of helping the American missions, and the Ludwig-Missionsverein, which had its origin in Bavaria and aimed to assist the missions both in Asia and America. The impetus for founding both German societies was given by Bishop Rese of Detroit.

When visiting Europe in 1828, as Vicar-General of Cincinnati, Father Frederic Rese succeeded in having the Leopoldine Foundation started at Vienna, with the approbation and active cooperation of Emperor Francis I of Austria. This was so encouraging that he tried to interest King Louis I of Bavaria in a similar project for his kingdom, but all he could obtain at the time was a promise of collections in the churches of Bavaria. These desultory collections, carried on during the next ten years, helped to enkindle the spark of mission enthusiasm in this little country. And when Rese returned to Munich in 1838, as Bishop of Detroit, he found the soil prepared. King Louis entered into his plans enthusiastically and formally constituted the Ludwig-Missionsverein on December 12, 1838.

The alms were at first distributed with the help of the Paris-Lyons society, but beginning in 1844 were managed independently. During the next few years the *Annalen der Glaubensverbreitung,* published at Einsiedeln and Strassbourg, as the German edition of the official French *Annales,* acquainted the Bavarians with the work of their own society. In 1848 the Ludwig-Missionsverein began to publish its own independent *Annalen* and thus made the separation of the French and German societies complete.

The Ludwig-Missionsverein gave special attention to the needs of the German immigrants in the United States. Between 1844 and 1918, besides money sent to other mission countries, the society sent approximately $900,000 to the United States. To this amount must be added large sums which King Louis sent directly to various American institutions, paintings and altar-pieces that adorn many of the churches, and other articles needed in the churches and schools.

This monetary assistance would be sufficient to demand the continued gratitude of the Church in the United States. But the society did not rest with this. Its members realized that money alone could not save the Faith of the immigrants, who needed more priests to minister to them. Every possible effort was therefore made to have priests volunteer for the American missions and such volunteers were generously supplied with the necessary means. To supply the large number of priests needed the society conceived the idea of founding a special seminary to prepare students for the priesthood who were to serve in the American missions. A start was made at Altoetting in Bavaria. This seminary was put in charge of the Redemptorists, but did not survive its infancy. It is not quite clear whether it was thought of as a general seminary or only for Redemptorist students, but the Belgian provincial, who was also the superior of the American Redemptorists, considered the seminary contrary to the spirit of the congregation and therefore had it closed.

However, the idea of having a seminary was not abandoned. At this time a Bavarian Benedictine, the Reverend Boniface Wimmer, urged the necessity of providing a seminary for German-speaking students not in Germany but in the United States, since a native clergy would be better prepared for the many vicissitudes of the American missions. He wanted this seminary under the care of a religious community, which could more easily provide for the material necessities through its lay brothers, would not have the worry of providing salaries for the teachers, and would thus in time be able to care for itself without relying too much on European alms. He thought the Benedictines best suited for such an undertaking.

The central council of the Ludwig-Missionsverein offered Father Boniface the necessary assistance if he himself would undertake to found the suggested abbey. He accepted their offer, gathered a number of students and lay persons and with them set out for the United States. Many well-meaning friends considered the undertaking foolhardy—how could one Benedictine commence an abbey in a new country with only laymen? Father Boniface was not dismayed. In spite of the greatest hardships, he succeeded in laying a solid foundation at St. Vincent, Pennsylvania, and in time he saw St. Vincent raised to the dignity of an abbey and himself appointed first abbot. At the same time he opened a seminary that provided many German-speaking priests for the Church in the United States.

Very soon he realized that more efficient help could be given the German Catholics in the Middle West, which was attracting these immigrants in great numbers. He therefore accepted the invitation of Bishop Cretin of St. Paul to come to Minnesota. This foundation became the Abbey of St. John. Almost at the same time the foundation was laid for the present abbey at Atchison, Kansas. More and more abbeys were founded in various parts of the United States, until the present imposing array of abbeys which form the American-Cassinese Benedictine Congregation was completed.

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Without the constant and effective assistance of the Ludwig-Missionsverein this would not have been begun and could not have been carried to completion.

While the Munich society can thus be said to have established the Benedictines in the United States, it gave substantial assistance to many other religious communities which might have found the going too hard without this aid. Among them are the Benedictines of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, who had their beginning at St. Meinrad, Indiana, and now have abbeys in various parts of the country from coast to coast. The Premonstratensians were assisted when they began in Wisconsin, but they had had to withdraw after some time without any fault of the Mission Society. The Carmelites received help to lay a solid foundation, as did also the Franciscans, in three provinces, the Capuchins, in two provinces, the Conventuals, the Vincentians, the Holy Ghost Fathers and others in a lesser degree.

The Ludwig-Missionsverein also conceived the idea of sending nuns to the United States to take charge of the parochial schools in German-speaking parishes. A beginning was made with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, which community had but recently been founded in Bavaria. These religious taught at St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, and in Baltimore, and soon a motherhouse was established in Milwaukee, then a center of German immigrants. That the undertaking was successful can be seen from the many establishments of these Sisters in America, so that they now outnumber the members of the community in Europe. The society also had much to do with the coming of the Benedictine Sisters, the German Ursulines, the Dominician Sisters of Regensburg, the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis. Without the aid of the Ludwig-Missionsverein the work of many other Sisterhoods would have come to nought.

The members of the central council also assisted most generously the Jesuits who were caring for German Catholics in the United States, and especially the Reverend Francis Xavier Weninger, known as the Apostle of the Germans. With the monetary assistance of the society he was able to traverse the country from coast to coast giving popular missions and to publish the many popular writings that were read with avidity by the German immigrants, thus strengthening their faith. Due to his great interest, the society also opened its hands providently to the needs of the Indians and Negroes, thus instigating the annual collection for the Indians and Negroes.

Nor did the Ludwig-Missionsverein neglect the needs of the bishops. All who gave special attention to the German Catholics were given assistance. Examples could be taken from almost every diocese in the country. Naturally the more generous help was sent to dioceses that had the most Germans. Thus great interest was manifested in Milwaukee and its Swiss-born Bishop Henni, whose Seminary of St. Francis de Sales was the focus of attention for many years. At the same time the society helped in the founding of the first Catholic Teachers' College of the United States, which was started in this diocese.

All possibilities of providing more priests for the immigrants were observed vigilantly. When a college for students to the American priesthood was opened at Münster in Westphalia, the society extended a helping hand. This institution did not last long; but the American College was opened at Louvain, Belgium, for the same purpose. From 1862 to the World War, Munich kept this college on its annual list of beneficiaries and contributed about $24,000.

All during his life, even after his resignation from the Bavarian throne in 1848, King Louis was actively interested in the work of the Ludwig-Missionsverein. He frequently made generous personal gifts to parishes and religious communities, and established a trust-fund of about $40,000 for the use of the society after his death. He may or he may not have been mistaken in his contention that the German Catholics could not preserve the Faith unless they kept their German customs. The fact remains, that he did not interfere with their new political affiliation, and that without his interest and the help of his society many immigrants would have been lost to the Church—a distinct loss for our own country.

This was appreciated by the First Plenary Council of Baltimore, in 1852, when the assembled Fathers thus addressed the Ludwig-Missionsverein: "The lively sympathy which the Ludwig-Missionsverein has manifested from the first hours of its existence for the progress of the American missions, and the abundant blessings which the Lord of the harvest has showered upon the Church in this country, compel the Archbishops and Bishops, assembled in the first National Council at Baltimore, to express their sincere and deep appreciation to the central council and the single members of the society."

To Saint Augustine

Your halo, spun from Monica's pure tears
  Pearling the glow of an intrinsic grace,
Startles me not. Across the twilit years
  I take your hand and seem to know your face.

For I have tasted the strong heresies
  And felt the stirrings of illusioned flesh
Only to find the sting you found in these
  And turn to Living Waters cool and fresh.

With you I seem to walk the crowded ways
  Of Carthage; and in Hippo's dusty streets
Laurel your eloquence with my poor praise,
  Glad of your triumphs, grieved at your defeats.

O vehement heart, tell me of that fond one
  Whose pagan charm was your pathetic snare.
And what of him, the little lad, your son
  Adeodatus? Had he golden hair?

Echoes my spirit with your plaintive cry:
  "Too late, too late have I discovered Thee.
Thou Ancient Beauty!" But the saints espy,
  Anchored in Truth, your immortality.

CLIFFORD J. LAUBE.

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Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—During 1934 eight new saints we e canonized at Rome. The Holy Father issued the Papal Constitution, "Quod Superiore Anno," extending the Holy Year to the world for the year ending April 28, 1935, and also issued letters on the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Norbert, founder of the Premonstratensian Order, and on the seventh centenary of the canonization of Saint Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers. * * * The Catholic population of England and Wales is now estimated at 2,321,117, an increase of 42,287 over the past year. Conversions during the past ten years have averaged 12,000 a year. * * * At the fifth national conference of the Laymen's Retreat Movement, held at the Catholic University of America, it was disclosed that 29,000 men had made retreats in the United States, and 5,700 in Canada, during the past year. There are 22 permanent retreat houses and 40 other places where retreats are conducted occasionally, in the United States. * * * Professor Yama No Uchi of the Waseda Free University, Tokyo, has chosen Reverend Cauveur Candau, rector of St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Tokyo, to give a weekly conference to his class in French literature, because the professor believes that it is impossible to understand French literature without being acquainted with Catholicism. * * * The killing of five Catholics on their way home from Mass at Coyoacan by a group of youthful Red Shirts brought the religious struggle in Mexico to a crisis in the opinion of many observers. Mexican parents had been forbidden, December 23, to allow their children to attend schools where socialistic education was imparted, on the pain of grave sin and refusal of absolution so long as their children continued to attend such institutions. * * * The Czechoslovak association for the promotion of pilgrimages to the Holy Land has bought a house with adjacent land on the Mount of Olives and is planning to convert it into a small monastery with a chapel which is to be dedicated next summer. * * * The Catholic University of Peking has received a grant of $10,000 from the Chinese government to carry on its researches combating exanthematic typhus. * * * Pope Pius XI has appointed the Very Reverend Raymond A. Kearney Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. Born in 1902, Monsignor Kearney will be the youngest Catholic bishop in the world.

The Nation.—Between Congress, the Hauptmann trial and the burgeoning of indications of a widespread business improvement, the nation had a good deal of sustained unanimity of interest in daily news reports. What Congress would be like, was still a large question. The tantalizing element of doubt in the trial of Hauptmann for the kidnaping of the Lindbergh baby and thereby being the occasion of the death of the child, persisted in spite of the almost flawless case of circumstantial evidence which had been built up against the defendant. * * * The market value of shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange increased $1,345,566,983 between December 1, 1933, and December 1, 1934. In the year previous it increased $10,283,319,278. The 1,186 issues listed on the Exchange had on December 1, last, a total market value of $33,888,023,435. * * * Dividends declared to shareholders in 1934 amounted to $2,684,711,575, compared with $2,385,576,654 in 1933—a gain of $299,134,921. In 1934, there were 659 extra dividends, compared to 312 in the preceding year; 177 dividend reductions compared to 749 in the preceding year; and 214 omissions compared with 743. * * * The turn-over in stocks on the New York market, or sales total, was for 1934, 324,000,000 shares and for 1933, 655,000,000. Whether the brokerage business under the existing federal supervision in the public interest, would ever return to the volume of the old unregulated days, was generally doubted. * * * An alleged Japanese spy was seized in Florida and charged with taking pictures of Atlantic seaports. Whether this is a chargeable offense was open to question but the spy scare was indicative of popular emotions which are of greater importance than this particular incident. * * * A variety of Red and Fascist plots continued to be related to the House Committee investigating un-American activities. * * * The subcommittee of the House Military Affairs Committee charged a $7,000,000 fraud to bribery by firms seeking war supplies contracts and to collusion by army officers and War Department officials.

The Wide World.—On December 29, Japan formally denounced the naval limitation treaty. This means that, unless diplomacy paves the ways to a resumption of parleys, all the work done since the World War to limit armaments and in this way to reduce the likelihood of conflict will be undone on December 31, 1936. Neither Great Britain nor the United States made any statement other than a formal expression of regret. * * * It was reported in London that a MacDonald-Simon plan for getting general assent to a European "security treaty" would be announced after the completion of the Saar plebiscite. The independence of Austria, the settlement of the Jugoslav-Hungarian controversy and the easing of relations between France and Germany were considered some of the major objectives. * * * Miss Elsa Sittell, New York girl, started arguing with German officials near the Saar border, lost her temper long enough to insult Hitler (that is, she said he was "a Jew"), and was thereupon jailed. Officially this was looked upon as just another in a long list of cases which have necessitated the intervention of United States consular authorities. * * * There were brushes aplenty in the Saar Basin as the day of voting approached. Internationally controlled police to the number of 3,300 maintained order, but Nazis and anti-Nazis broke each other's heads with considerable

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abandon. Particular interest attached to the anti-union rally to be held on January 6—possibly the largest assemblage in the history of this unusual campaign. * * * Somewhat more optimism and calm were reported from France, where the government is preparing to meet the challenge of the Chamber of Deputies. It was felt generally that international tension had diminished and that the economic situation, though bad, was no longer as desperate as had seemed to be the case.

* * * *

The Seventy-fourth Congress.—As the new Congress prepared to convene, January 3, observers made many a surmise as to the coming program. The leaders of Congress themselves were said to be planning a short opening session and to be clearing the way for the President's message to the joint session of Congress on the following day. It is generally agreed that in all matters except the bonus question President Roosevelt can count on the full cooperation of the legislators. Even in this controversy some satisfactory compromise is already being attempted. Little or no increase in taxes is expected, but credit is to be eased by extending the powers of the Federal Reserve Board. The National Industrial Recovery Act is to be extended for a limited time and the provisions for collective bargaining, maximum and minimum hours and the outlawing of child labor are to be continued. Although unemployables are to be turned over to state and local relief authorities, a huge work relief program is expected to be authorized. A federal-state-aid unemployment insurance system, financed by a federal payroll tax, is to be inaugurated and the destitute aged are to be provided for by small federal-state-aid pensions. Measures to increase farm prices by controlling agricultural production will be modified and continued. The War and Navy Departments are counting on a considerable increase in their appropriations especially for their air forces. Legislation is to prepare the way for developments similar to the Tennessee Valley project and to stimulate rural electrification by government cooperation with private companies. Amendments to acts already in force are expected to facilitate reorganization and consolidation of railroads. Federal control over rates, operations and other aspects of bus, truck, air and water transportation are also predicted. Meanwhile the influx into Washington has been so great that there is a serious housing shortage in the national capital.

Sending Our Battle Fleet West.—While officials of the United States expressed dismay at the belligerency of Japan's denouncement of the 5-5-3 naval ratio treaty, a most belligerent naval move was announced by the United States. On December 29, Japan formally gave notice to our State Department of withdrawal, to take effect December 31, 1936, from the treaty, and on the same day Admiral Joseph M. Reeves, commander-in-chief of the United States battle fleet, said that the largest American naval armada ever assembled would carry on war maneuvers in the western Pacific. The United States has practically less of a stake in the Pacific at Japan's front door than any other major power. What Secretary of the Navy Claude A. Swanson, or the President, as supreme commander of our war forces, intended to imply by this naval move was not announced. The Secretary of the Navy had several months ago given out plans for maneuvers in the triangle between California, Alaska and Hawaii. Admiral Reeves, however, declared one arm of the fleet would proceed 1,600 miles west of Honolulu, which will involve the United States in war games nearer to Asia than has ever before been attempted. News reports from London where Ambassador at Large Norman H. Davis and Rear Admiral William H. Standley have been attending a highly important but strangely unofficial naval conference, that an Anglo-American naval alliance was to be expected, was given substance in fact by the proposed maneuver.

Sports and Education.—Some indication of the money to be made with powerful football teams may be gleaned from the fact, mentioned as a matter of course in the daily press, that the University of Alabama was to receive $60,000 for its spectacular victory over Stanford in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day. Another recent news item states that Cornell University of Ithaca, New York, has announced that it will no longer look with disfavor upon applicants for scholarships who have, among other qualifications, outstanding ability in athletics. The professional aspect of intercollegiate sport today is as pronounced as ever in the opinion of Dr. Howard J. Savage, whose famous Carnegie Foundation Bulletin No. 23 back in 1929 set in motion a campaign for genuinely amateur college athletics. At a luncheon of the Sportsmanship Brotherhood, December 27, in New York, Dr. Savage declared that conditions had improved during the eighteen months immediately following publication of the Carnegie Report and blamed the depression with its effect on the morale of many educational institutions for the return to "some of the darker phases of American sport." However, only two questions really matter in his opinion. "First, is it [college sport] a source of wholesome fun and happiness to the youth of America? Second, does it contribute in a salutary way to the maturing of our young men?" At the same luncheon Reverend John F. O'Hara, C. S. C., president of the University of Notre Dame, made a strong plea for a ""well-rounded education" in which "physical, intellectual and moral or spiritual development" all held a real place. In appealing for sportsmanship in education, Father O'Hara declared that experimenting with educational theories should be subordinated to the development of the child. The National Collegiate Athletic Association adopted a nine-point code to curb recruiting and subsidizing of athletes, December 28.

Francis Cardinal Bourne (1861-1935).—His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Westminster, and head of the Catholic Church in England, died in London on New Year's Day after two years of failing health. Cardinal Bourne was a native of London, his mother being the daughter of a Dublin

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merchant. his father an Englishman who became a convert to the Church. In his early days he was marked as a studious boy and his education, begun in the Clapham schools, was continued at St. Cuthbert's College, Upshaw, St. Edmund's College, Ware, St. Sulpice, Paris, and finally at the University of Louvain, Belgium, where he was ordained in 1884. For five years he served as a curate and then was appointed rector of a diocesan seminary which he founded. Pope Leo XIII made him a domestic prelate in 1895 and two years later he became Bishop of Southwark. When Cardinal Vaughan died in 1903, Cardinal Bourne succeeded him as Archbishop of Westminster, and eight years later he was made cardinal. He is credited with the building of many small churches to enable London Catholics to attend Mass more easily, discharging the debt on Westminster Cathedral, and enhancing the beauty of the cathedral. Cardinal Bourne was renowned for his ability and his zeal as an administrator. Although he was said to be easy of access, he was considered to be something of a recluse. History is said to have been his favorite study. He received much credit in 1929 for formulating the ideas which ultimately were the basis for the establishment of Vatican City as an independent Papal State. In the opinion of some, Cardinal Bourne has had a wider influence than any of his predecessors since the Holy See restored the Catholic hierarchy to England in 1850.

A Priest Chemist.—The New York section of the American Chemical Society announces that the Reverend Julius A. Nieuwland, C. S. C., of the University of Notre Dame, has merited the William H. Nichols medal for 1935. This token of appreciation will be presented formally on April 22, on the occasion of the three hundredth anniversary of the chemical industry in New York. Dr. J. M. Weiss, chairman of the committee in charge of the award, states that Father Nieuwland is commendable "for basic work on syntheses from unsaturated hydrocarbons." This array of nouns and adjectives will probably be more intelligible to the average reader when he knows that Father Nieuwland discovered the path which the Du Pont laboratories later on followed to the development of synthetic rubber. It may be added that the Notre Dame chemist is famed for other things as well. He has long been an ardent naturalist and botanist. During many years he could be seen carefully scrutinizing wayside plants; and he was the unflagging, courageous editor of the *Midland Naturalist,* not unfrequently priding himself on the purity and accuracy of his diction. The wonder of it all is that Father Nieuwland, a man who kept the counsels of his genius to himself, struggled along for many years with very little in the way of equipment. Not until fairly recently did Notre Dame possess the modern laboratories which are to a large extent a tribute to its greatest professor's ability. Father Nieuwland seems, indeed, to have done much of his work in his head—about the last place a good many "scientists" we have heard of would choose as a field of activity. We may remark in passing that the good priest has an excellent, quite unusual wit. Indeed he is one of the few people of our acquaintance who could be depended upon to say the wholly unexpected-pertinent.

The Fight against Atheism.—Writing in *America* (December 29), the Reverend John LaFarge, S. J., says: "The battalions in this fray [i. e., the combat between Christianity and atheism] are not all drawn up on the left flank alone. Atheistic distrust of the Divine is taught by a Maurras or a Daudet as effectively, for certain groups, as by a Bukharin or a Yarolavsky. Nothing can play more effectively into the atheist program than to insist that the major function of religion is to police the State: the State being understood in arbitrary manner. The one group blames the religion of Christ for its supposed indifference to human misery; the other attacks it for its partiality to suffering humanity, and demands that religion be administered in the interest of a privileged minority. Both are completely false to the truth. The practical bearing of all this is that the Catholic warfare against atheism needs to be waged along a twofold front. The direct and traditional front, on which there can never be any relaxation, is the scientific refutation of atheism by the demonstration of the utter inadequacy of any explanation of natural phenomena or of human history which leaves out of consideration the First Cause of the created world and the providential Guide of human destiny. Besides this basic work, however, there is a vast task to be carried on in recalling to the confused and discouraged mind of the age the essential goodness of God, as revealed through the Person, teachings and work of His Divine Son." In other words, the mission of Christianity has for its objective not merely that a man believe, but that he believe *in Christ.*

The Friday Menu.—What to eat on Friday is often a minor Catholic quandary, which can lead to disgruntled husbands and children reaching for the magnesia bottle. A good book of fast-day recipes has long been needed—in fact, we are thinking of getting it out ourselves. As things are now, people are likely to regret that the battle of Lepanto was not fought right outside of Boston, thus forgetting the privilege of commemoration. England, at any rate, is doing its bit toward solving the problem. The London *Tablet* extends "sincere wishes for a snug Christmas-tide and a beneficent New Year" to the 5,000,000 stalwart herrings which are now dutifully lying in storage at Grimsby. In these cohorts can be kept in proper condition, experiment will prove that any good Briton can have his herring regardless of the season. You cannot persuade a knowing Englishman that a herring, though cheap, isn't as good as striped bass. Indeed, he has sometimes been known to prefer one even to a rasher of bacon. If, therefore, the conservation experiment turns out as it should, Friday will have no terrors. For us, Americans all, the situation is less easy to handle. Perilously few of our chefs know what to do with a water-bred creature. Research indicates that outside of Maine a lobster is hardly edible, and that few north of the Virginia tide-water country know what to do with a crab. As for the sinister designs of the average restauranteur

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on so modest a being as a mackerel, what imagination short of Dante's would suffice to describe them?

* * * *

Good Cheer in the Dominions.—Most of the figures emanating from Canada these days indicate considerable shifting toward economic and social improvement. Persons on the relief rolls numbered 1,150,000, a drop of more than 450,000 since April, 1933. A corresponding decline in the number of unemployed was also reported. Business generally reported gains for the past year, the improvement ranging from 5 to 50 percent. The income from agriculture was about $225,000,000 higher than in 1933. The Bank of Montreal states that "the business index averaged 94.2 for the first ten months, against 78.5 the year previous." As a direct consequence of the Ottawa agreement, the foreign commerce of Canada has changed remarkably. A heavy balance of trade with the British countries has been maintained, though imports from these countries have increased by a fifth. Meanwhile exports to "foreign" countries have reached a slightly higher total than in 1932, while imports from these countries are also larger. There was a slight decline in the birth rate during the first eleven months of 1934, but this was more than offset by a drop in the death rate. The number of marriages was substantially larger.

Business in 1934.—A year-end review of business in the United States for 1934, which was contained in a bulletin of the Federal Reserve, showed that industrial profits for the first nine months of last year were 70 percent greater than in the corresponding period of the previous year. This showing was made in spite of the fact that during the third quarter of 1934 profits of a large group of industrial corporations were off 25 percent compared with the year previous and 30 percent compared with the second quarter of 1934. The cash income of farmers for the first ten months of last year was put at $5,045,000,000, as compared with $4,099,000,000 in 1933 and $3,616,000,000 in 1932. Of the approximately $1,000,000,000 increase in farm revenue, about $300,000,000 was from benefit payments and drought emergency purchases of cattle, while the remaining $700,000,000 was an increase from marketing at higher prices. Wage payments by factories, mines, railroads and public utilities during the first ten months of last year were about 25 percent larger than in the corresponding period in 1933. The largest reported increase in wage earners was at factories producing durable goods. Retail prices of food were on the average about 12 percent higher than a year previous, while rents were about the same for the two years. The volume of employment in factories and in non-manufacturing private industries was found to be about the same level at the year end as a year earlier. Public Works Administration employment increased from 275,000 at the beginning of the year to 625,000 in July and then declined to about 520,000 in October.

Not in Netherlands.—Pooling of the country's entire electricity supply under federal control was proposed by the Mississippi Valley committee of the Public Works Administration. Private companies would be maintained as such and by the avoidance of duplications and with the aid of government resources their economy and stability would be promoted. The report points out that more than 5,000,000 farms have no electric service; only 800,000 are electrified and of these only 650,000 have service from a central plant. The individual plants serving the rest were said to be expensive and limited as to use. During the next twenty years, it was proposed, the government could profitably spend $1,000,000,000 in a valley-wide project which by means of 500 dams would not only supply electricity to dirt farmers in the vast central region of the United States, but also would aid navigation, control floods, supply irrigation projects, and do away with pollution of streams and rivers which causes disease. A comprehensive plan is necessary to avoid much waste, it is said, as the building of a dam and thereby the creation of a water reservoir should be utilized for all of the above enumerated purposes rather than for one or two only, as now happens because of conflicts of individual and local interests. The plan is also envisaged as a means of absorbing in socially useful work a large number of the unemployed.

Japan Penetrates.—Indications multiply that Japan is making tremendous strides in the economic penetration of markets formerly dominated by countries of the western world older in imperialism, in international trade and in modern industrial methods. This situation is responsible for the largely silent struggle behind the guarded speeches of diplomats and ministers of government, seeking to jockey the United States into being a protector of the status quo in Asia and the Near East whereby the interposition of political trade barriers would preserve for the older industrial nations their former advantages. England, for instance, has felt keenly the Japanese competition in textiles in India and elsewhere. The penetration of Japanese goods into South America is also showing notable development. In Chile, for instance, the Japanese sell for $8 a bicycle modeled after a well-known British make and this price is half that of a German bicycle which is the next cheapest on the market. Japanese spark plugs sell for $.10 against $.24 for American plugs and the Japanese have a small automobile which sells from a fourth to a half under the prices of the least expensive American and British cars. A year ago Chile was selling Japan 4,355,000 pesos' worth of goods and buying 1,991,000 pesos' worth. Statistics for the first eight months of this year show Chile to be selling 1,847,000 pesos' worth of products and buying 4,338,000 pesos' worth of textiles alone from Japan. United States Consul Franklin B. Atwood recently reported to the State Department that "Japanese motor-car lamp bulbs have a practical monopoly of the Chilean market." Japan has speeded its production of artificial silk, and last year the total yardage of Japanese mills for the first time surpassed those of Great Britain. Japan also was the largest purchaser from Soviet Russia's iron works, which now lead the world in production.

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The Play

By GRENVILLE VERNON

Richard III

WALTER HAMPDEN, after extended wanderings upon the road, has again returned for a short season of repertoire in New York. The public's response has shown that it has remained unaffected by the incomprehensible lack of appreciation shown him in late years by most of the metropolitan newspaper critics. In this case the public has proved itself more discerning than the mentors, for Mr. Hampden is one of the most accomplished actors now before the public, as well as one of the few true idealists. Perhaps it is that as in the case of Aristides these critics have resented Mr. Hampden's being called "the Just"! But there is a reason for Mr. Hampden's position on the American stage, and it is a reason both honorable and just. He has year in and year out devoted his talents to the classic drama and given to the American public impersonations of a high order. His Richard III, though known to the public outside New York, is new to Broadway, and it proved one of his most successful enactments. He plays it with just the right balance between the ranters of the "palmy days" and the modern actor who would rationalize Shakespeare into colorlessness and purge him of his verbal music. "Richard III" is not one of the great plays of Shakespeare, and it must be given broadly, even theatrically. This is the way Hampden plays it, and yet he never overdoes it. His Richard is saturnine, humorous, whimsically evil, robustious when that quality is needed, yet at times realistic enough for the most modern taste. In the later scenes he is the most effective Richard New York has seen since the days of Mansfield. Words of praise too should be given especially to Herbert Ranson for his Edward IV, to Ernest Rowan for his Richmond, and to Mabel Moore for her Queen Margaret. When Mr. Hampden leaves, New York's loss will be the country's gain. (At the Forty-fourth Street Theatre.)

Rain from Heaven

MR. S. N. BEHRMAN is at his best a most accomplished writer of dialogue and an exceedingly subtle etcher of sophisticated human beings. In his latest play both of these qualities are present. His drawing of the charming Lady Violet Wyngate; of the German music critic, Hugo Willens; of the Russian refugee, Nikolai Jurin, are masterly both in conception and execution. Indeed I can recall no American play of recent years which contains three more sensitively drawn, civilized men and women. When these three talk, and they talk rather than do, the evening proves one of unalloyed pleasure. Nothing happens except the expression of ideas, but ideas so subtly evolved, so poignantly expressed, that we forget all else. If these three characters had continued only to talk I, for one, would have been enchanted at the end of the evening, but Mr. Behrman found it necessary after a while to inject a play, and the play was utterly unimportant, and often false to the characters themselves. And for the purposes of the play he had to create other characters, notably a preposterous American financier and his equally preposterous wife. These characters might have done in a farce, but they are certainly out of place in a comedy of manners. The story, if it can be dignified by that name, concerns a house-party at Lady Violet's, and Lady Violet's realization that the young aviator she is engaged to is not the man for her. She realizes this when she meets the German music critic, and though the critic at the end goes back to Germany to face the hate of the Nazis, we feel that probably he will some day return to Lady Violet. But the story is trivial, false in its working out, and does not count. But much of the dialogue does. Some day Mr. Behrman will find a theme and a story worthy of his literary gifts. The play was delightfully acted, especially by John Halliday as the critic, Jane Cowl as Lady Violet, and Jose Ruben as the Russian refugee. These three players know how high comedy must be played. Thurston Hall played the financier as it was written, and therefore deserves credit, and Lily Cahill was amusing enough as his preposterous wife. (At the Golden Theatre.)

Accent on Youth

SAMSON RAPHAELSON, like Mr. Behrman, knows how to write sophisticated dialogue, and unlike Mr. Behrman he also knows how to tell a story—up to a point. "Accent on Youth" is not an original theme; it is the old one of the middle-aged playwright who wins a young girl from a young rival, a theme always popular with males who have passed forty! Being a "modern," Mr. Raphaelson has small regard for marriage or the marriage state. Everyone except the young actor who loses out seems to share in this moral chaos, and at the end Mr. Raphaelson makes the young man, who started as most likable, very much the cad. So much for the moral tone of the play, a tone which is not improved by making the actions of the characters at times more indefensible than they really are, through insufficient preparation for their actions. Mr. Raphaelson writes for the movies, and the movie technique is not sufficient for a serious playwright. Yet the dialogue and much of the character drawing is excellent. Mr. Raphaelson has it in him to write a really important play, once he divorces himself from Hollywood. The acting was admirable. Nicholas Hannen was both amusing and poignant as the ageing playwright, Constance Cummings sincere and attractive as his secretary, while Ernest Cossart as the philosophic butler, and Ernest Lawford as the sixty-year-old actor, gave comedy performances which could not have been bettered. A whole chapter indeed could be written on Mr. Cossart's humorously persuasive eyes. Irene Purcell was likewise excellent as a young actress. (At the Plymouth Theatre.)

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Communications

WHAT NEXT, LEGION OF DECENCY?

Dayton, Ohio.

TO the Editor: In the November 16 issue of THE COMMONWEAL I read, "What Next, Legion of Decency?" by Edward S. Schwegler. Mr. Schwegler deserves praise for his clear exposition in nine points of the difficulties of publishing moving picture bulletins to guide those who have joined the Legion of Decency, as well as those who have not.

In the city of Dayton during the last eight months the Dayton Circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae has been publishing a weekly bulletin of recommended pictures or, better, a list of those pictures which are not prohibited. It has been using the I.F.C.A. monthly and weekly lists of recommended pictures, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors lists, the very recommendable list of the *Parents' Magazine* and finally the Chicago Council Legion of Decency list as its sources and finds them inadequate, or to be more specific, not up-to-date enough for Dayton, which receives many "first-run" pictures. The result has been endless troubles with the theatre managers who, though very eager to co-operate by supplying "pre-lists" of their coming attractions, complain when we do not mention a picture offered at their theatre for a certain week. Of course the reason for the omission was given, and a suggestion that members of the committee be permitted to preview those pictures about which no information could be secured was refused until only a few weeks ago when consent was finally granted. (This trouble occurs only in the down-town theatres where the "first-runs" are numerous.)

However, our committee, knowing the great possibility of variation of opinion in judging pictures, feels that prohibiting pictures which come through later as approved on the I.F.C.A. or the C.C.L.D. lists will not only render a good work quite useless but detrimental and worthy of just criticism.

Therefore there are two points in the article referred to above that I believe should be carried out without much more delay if we would not lose much that we have gained through the sweeping start of the Legion of Decency in the past six months.

First, let us get that national list within the shortest time possible, and, secondly, let no picture be released until that national list can be made known to all parts of the country. Attaining these two objectives, we shall be able to keep up a sustained fight against immoral movies. Now is the time we must not weaken or we shall have to begin all over again, and the second start may not be so glorious as the first.

We ought not to discuss so much; we know what we need; why not demand it? The bishops have succeeded admirably thus far; surely they can demand more, and that more is a sufficient time for a national committee to preview the pictures and send a review of them to all the dioceses. Then and only then will our local circles and committees be able to function with greater facility and a greater security.

Just one more word before I close this letter. It seems to me we ought not to worry about anything in our reviewing of pictures at the present time but the question of morality and ethics of pictures. I have noticed in some cases that the Catholic source from New York has not recommended pictures because they were poor artistically. There are many different tastes to be satisfied; so to use this reason for not recommending a picture is not going to bring us to the goal of the Legion of Decency which is, I presume, clean and ethical pictures.

If, later on, we find that an opportunity warrants, let us try in union with the already existing organizations outside the Church to raise the tone of pictures. Perhaps the tri-colored list, white, grey, and black, suggested by Dr. Herzfeld in the August 31 issue of THE COMMONWEAL, would be just the idea to work out.

Mind, I do not condemn the idea of lifting pictures to a higher level intellectually. The truth of the matter is that I am much in favor of it, since it will help our young people especially to appreciate drama, novels and other writing that are just a little more inspirational and uplifting than most of our modern sensational trash is.

BROTHER JOHN W. THOMAS, S. M.

FUTURE ITALIAN CHURCHMEN

Hartford, Conn.

TO the Editor: Decrees from Signor Mussolini, Italy's modern Augustus Caesar, are always fraught with interest. His most recent decree on compulsory military training for all Italian males from the tender age of eight years to their thirty-third year is causing a more than usual flutter of excitement even in Europe, where militaristic decrees have been flung out upon helpless subjects by mighty leaders of nations for centuries past. Knowing full well the uncanny shrewdness and almost prophetic foresight of Il Duce, the world is, at once, all attention. Everyone feels the tenseness of brewing war. Scenes of ancient Roman triumphs and the too recent memories of the World War loom almost instinctively in the minds of all who give thought at all to Il Duce's latest militaristic pronouncement. Thinking men the world over will not for a moment doubt that this decree will have a far-reaching effect upon the world of the not too distant future.

Those of us who happen to be ecclesiastics are, also, naturally concerned with this decree, but we are chiefly concerned with the effect of this decree upon the Church to which we are irrevocably wedded and whose interests are, always, very close to our hearts. The ecclesiastic wonders what effect this militaristic edict will have as the years roll on upon the future Italian churchmen whom Divine Providence has placed at the helm of the Church. For almost unbroken centuries past the successors of Saint Peter have been Italian. Not only the Sovereign Pontiff, but also most of those of his household—most of those whose positions make them men of profound influence upon the Church in Italy and without Italy—are Italian. The very ambassadors of the Holy See, the Apostolic

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Delegates to all the Catholic nations of Christendom, are almost invariably Italians. All in all, these Italian churchmen have been men of extraordinary talents and qualifications. The Church of Christ has prospered under their Christlike leadership. In learning—ecclesiastical and secular—in urbanity, in all virtues, but particularly in their Divine gift that we might term Christian ecclesiastical diplomacy, few impartial judges will deny these Italian churchmen have for centuries been unexcelled.

Looking back through hagiographical history, too, we find that many of the saints who cast such a profound influence upon the people of the succeeding centuries were Italians: Saint Francis of Assisi, the Poor Little Man of Assisi who founded the great Franciscan Order in the thirteenth century, and that kindly, serene priest of the Rome of the sixteenth century, Saint Philip Neri, stand out quite prominently. Other nations, too, can boast of saints and churchmen who have cast their influence upon the world, but it is the spiritual characters, nursed amid the Christian cheerfulness and suave Christ-Child-like atmosphere of Italy that seem to have attracted more to the Faith than the sterner virtues of sterner spiritual leaders. In other words, not militarism—not the military training camps of Augustus Caesar and Napoleon—but rather the peaceful spiritual atmosphere of Christianity within the shadow of the dome of St. Peter's seems, unquestionably, to have been the nursery of this race of super-spiritual leaders that has been the proud boast of the Church in Italy for centuries past. True it is that some great spiritual leaders have spent their first, impressionable years amid the din of war and military camps. Saint Ignatius Loyola, for instance, founder of the world-famous Society of Jesus, was, at first, in his aspiring years a soldier in the army of his country. But it was not the military training alone that made Saint Ignatius the unrivaled dominant spiritual force that he was—it was those long hours spent at peaceful Manresa in prayer and meditation, in close union with the Supreme Teacher of Love and Charity.

And so it is! One cannot help but wonder what effect this military training will have upon our future Italian churchmen. Nursed, as they will be, in the very earliest, impressionable years in the school of militarism, will these future churchmen be the appealing diplomatic leaders that they have been in the past historic centuries? Will this Caesarean-Napoleonic militarism of Il Duce produce another Saint Francis of Assisi, a Saint Philip Neri, a venerable Leo XIII, a sainted, benevolent Pius X, a statesmanlike Pius XI; or to come to men more familiar to American Catholics—an urbane Cardinal Bonzano, a kindly souled Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, or a scholarly Archbishop Cicognani. Truly, militarism has given the world great characters. No one will deny that. Caesar was a great leader of nations, and Napoleon likewise, and even Il Duce himself; but the question is, is militarism the proper training school for all the men of the nation—will militarism produce super-churchmen as well as super-dictators and super-generals of armies? "Aye, there's the rub!"

PAUL MURLBROOK.

THE SUPREME ISSUE IN MEXICO

Rome, Italy.

TO the Editor: Reading your recent articles and editorials on Mexico aroused an interest which the hearing of several first-hand stories of Mexico has kindled into a flame. It is long past time for Americans and, above all, American Catholics to sit up and take notice and do something about Mexico. At the time that the Bolsheviks were establishing their iniquitous rule in Russia, we had perhaps the plea of distance and inaccessibility to excuse our doing nothing about it. In the case of Mexico we have no such excuse.

Tales told of modern Mexico bear a curious resemblance to the stories of England in Elizabethan days. A priest, caught in the act of giving consecrated Hosts to a boy to distribute to the faithful in secret, is shot on the instant, without question of trial. The boy too is shot, and the Blessed Sacrament without doubt desecrated. Other priests disguise themselves and go among the people, ministering to them, at the risk of their lives. Their heroic ruses and escapades will some day form the subject-matter of novels more thrilling even than "Come Rack! Come Rope!"

The Catholics of Mexico are enduring persecution no less severe than any of the great persecutions of history, from the wholesale butchery of Christians under Diocletian down to the martyrdoms of the Jesuit missionaries by the American Indians and the murder of religion in Russia by the Soviet government.

What is the matter with American Catholics? They united nobly in the Legion of Decency to protect themselves and their children from the dangers of immoral movies. Can they not unite again in defense of the lives and souls of their suffering brethren at their doorstep? Let the Catholics of this country make an appeal to their President that, by its very truth and by the weight of the millions of signatures attached to it, must make him take action. Let some one Catholic body or institution have the courage and the common, ordinary justice to take the first step. The others will follow soon enough. What does Catholic Action mean? Are we all cowards? Or will some Catholic group come to the rescue of millions of fellow Catholics?

MARY BYLES.

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: I have just read your editorial, "The Supreme Issue in Mexico," in your issue of November 23, and note on the opening page your reference to only three journals representing Protestant and Jewish opinion that have called attention to the religious situation in Mexico.

May I not correct this by stating that *Missions* had a long editorial on the Mexican situation in the November issue, page 518, and another editorial on the same situation in the September issue, page 390. As soon as one of my correspondents who has been spending these weeks in Central America and Mexico returns, I shall have another editorial or a feature article.

WILLIAM B. LIPPHARD, *Editor.*

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Books

Books on Public Affairs

The Challenge to Liberty, by Herbert Hoover. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. $1.75.

It's Up to Us, by Joseph P. Warburg. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $2.00.

Roosevelt versus Recovery, by Ralph Robey. New York: Harper and Brothers. $2.00.

Do We Want Fascism?, by Carmen Haider. New York: John Day Company. $2.00.

The New Democracy, by Harold L. Ickes. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. $1.50.

A Short History of the New Deal, by Louis M. Hacker. New York: F. S. Crofts and Company. $1.50.

The Quest for Security, by I. M. Rubinow. New York: Henry Holt and Company. $3.50.

New Federal Organizations, by Laurence F. Schmeckebier. Washington: Brookings Institution. $1.50.

The Budget in Governments of Today, by A. E. Buck. New York: The Macmillan Company. $3.00.

Crisis Government, by Lindsay Rogers. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. $1.75.

READERS who are not yet jaded after two years of preoccupation with public affairs will find plenty to interest them in the current output of books. Volumes on politics and economics continue to pour from the publishers' mills and most of them revolve about contemporary developments. Critics and defenders of the New Deal rush at each other in print; the social scientists, meanwhile, with greater objectivity, more quietly take their soundings.

Herbert Hoover has chosen to make his attack on administration policies from the high plane of liberty. His subject is not easy and his treatment of it without distinction. He follows Mill in holding, "The essence of American liberty is to assure men the secured right to every activity which does not trespass the rights of others," but he emphatically rejects *laissez-faire* and insists on "certain restrictions on the strong and dominant." His subsequent efforts to distinguish in principle between necessary regulation and undesirable "regimentation" leave one unconvinced and dissatisfied. If contributing little to the ideology of American liberty, and if too vague to supply a program of action, the book is more interesting as a study of the leader of a political party far from moribund. Mr. Hoover continues to stress the world-wide origin of the depression, and finds it was being conquered in 1932, until post-election uncertainties disturbed confidence and set back recovery. The ex-President's style, it may be added, remains verbose and exceedingly repetitious.

Mr. Warburg, prominent banker and ex-New Dealer, presents the same central thesis as Mr. Hoover, that planned economy means the end of American democracy and liberty. Padded with reprints of articles by himself and others, and replete with clichés, the professional economist may declare "It's Up to Us" thin and superficial, but the average reader, to whom it is definitely ad-

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Next Week

TWO LETTERS ON RELIEF, by Mary L. McClure, are two human documents of compelling force. They tell from a broad basis of practical experience, the terrorism, the stupidity and waste in the management of Federal Work Relief. The purpose is not merely to knock, not merely to despair over the human equation in any large enterprise where a certain amount of the worst type of official bullying and meddling is inevitable. It is to suggest an alternative: the giving of emergency employment on the basis of employment rather than of pauperism. That is, under the present system where work is given only to those who have been investigated and proved to be desperately destitute, the protection from occasional petty grafters is more than compensated for by the money and effort wasted on the investigators. The first letter is the covering letter to the Editor which came with the second, and in its spontaneousness is so revealing that the author is not a crank or a mere intransigeant theorist in the midst of cataclysmic realities, that permission was secured to print it too. It also intimates vividly how Communism very naturally breeds.... A WORD ABOUT BABBITT, by Russell Wilbur, is a brilliant outline of the study necessary in our time of the combined natural and supernatural orders which meet and unite in man.... RADIO AND THE FUTURE, by the Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of wireless and the Marconi Beam System, is a lucid and fascinating article on likely developments in wireless and particularly on the development of uses of the micro-wave.... SHEILA KAYE-SMITH, by Mary Stack, is an interesting essay on a popular English novelist who in the past year has published two books, "Superstition Corner" and "Gallybird," that continue her story-telling of life in Sussex.

dressed, will find here an earnest, direct criticism of present tendencies, presented in simple, non-technical terms. Mr. Warburg insists on being specific, but frequently invokes the Irishman's privilege, as when he attempts to answer, rather unsuccessfully, President Roosevelt's challenging question: "What liberties have we lost?"

A far abler and more convincing criticism of the New Deal comes from Professor Robey of Columbia. He performs a real service in indicating the many inconsistencies in the policies of the administration, and the waste, confusion and mistakes in their execution. His chief attack is on the credit and spending program, which, he persuasively argues, necessarily involves more and continued spending, with eventual reckoning or disaster ahead. His account of the origin of the NRA as General Johnson's alternative to inflation will be found both enlightening and entertaining. A journalist as well as an educator, Professor Robey avoids the jargon of academica without becoming superficial. This book deserves study by all classes of readers.

Most criticism of the so-called New Deal, including the three volumes above mentioned, draw heavily upon European experience, with especial warnings of Fascism. This attitude finds fuller expression in Miss Haider's book, "Do We Want Fascism?" The first part of the volume is a well-balanced, well-written summary of the movement, particularly as found in Italy and Germany, but the second part, sketching the possibilities and probable effects of Fascism in America, leaves one sceptical. These sections of the book are so liberally sprinkled with "mays," "ifs" and "perhaps" as to bring it closer to imaginative writing than to social science.

For twenty-five years an aggressive crusader for civic reform and other lost causes in Chicago, an ex-Republican and ex-Progressive, the presence of Harold L. Ickes in a seat of great power in Washington is positive proof that some kind of a New Deal is on. Hence any work from his pen is bound to compel interest. "The New Democracy" which he finds emerging is portrayed as in full harmony with American ideals and traditions. The policies of the administration are vigorously upheld and the need for more government planning stressed. With many impartial students of government dismayed at recent development of the spoils system in federal government, it is heartening to note the Secretary's plea for merit in public employment. "In order," he writes, "that the government may adequately plan and efficiently administer a program that will be devoted to the common good, it will be necessary for it to employ the very best brains available. Our colleges and technical schools will be taxed as never before to produce able men who can think into the future and who are endowed with a social conscience that will make them eager workers for the better development of our great country."

Professor Hacker's competently written "Short History of the New Deal" is a very worth-while contribution. This skilled and experienced historian not only chronicles objectively the events and developments in the crowded months since March, 1933, but fits this pattern into the background of American history. He is a shrewd analyst,

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as his summing up will show. He cannot resist the usual glimpse into the future; here, interestingly enough, he finds imperialism a more likely alternative for the United States than Fascism. Charts, tables, a wealth of factual data, an appendix of New Deal legislation, and good bibliography add to the excellencies of the book.

With reform rivaling recovery as an objective, and with social insurance shaping up in any long-range program of economic planning, the appearance of Dr. Rubinow's "Quest for Security" is timely. This is an able treatise by a sound scholar and experienced social worker. It deals historically and analytically with methods of relieving the effects of unemployment, old age, accidents and illness, and examines critically the different proposals in this direction now being urged in this country. Dr. Rubinow is specific in his recommendations and his "efforts to interpret what is usually conceived as a dry and technical matter to the average adult mind" promise success. The volume deserves a wider audience than the university classrooms; even the weariest of business men will find the chapter on life insurance enlightening and challenging.

In "New Federal Organizations" Laurence Schmeckebier analyzes in considerable detail the structure and mechanism of the fifty or so administrations, boards, corporations and committees through which the New Deal operates. Purely factual and descriptive, and done with that skill and accuracy we have learned to expect from Brookings Institution, the work will be valuable and useful to the professional student and practitioner of political science, and to all others curious and diligent enough to untie the skeins of our growing federal government.

It is only within our own generation that American governments have brought any semblance of plan into the collection and spending of public money, and the problems pertinent to the attempt remain largely unsolved. Mr. A. E. Buck, the leading American authority in his field, in his latest and best work, "The Budget in Governments of Today," gives us a rather comprehensive survey of the formulation, authorization, execution and accountability of public budgets in this and other countries. Mr. Buck approves the trend toward executive control and responsibility in financial control and would accelerate it; and he finds English and continental practise superior to American in a great many respects. The layman seeking light on this central problem of public budgets need not fear to be overwhelmed by technical details in reading this book.

Mr. Rogers in "Crisis Government" finds the decline of representative government in Europe a not unnatural consequence of the war and its aftermath, when parliaments were proved incompetent to deal with the emerging problems. He believes the phenomenon of dictatorship a temporary one, however, for "no workable better substitute for representative government has as yet been found," and that "in one way, the spread of dictatorships over Europe will aid democratic government because it will force a reexamination of the manner in which popular institutions can be improved and of the conditions under

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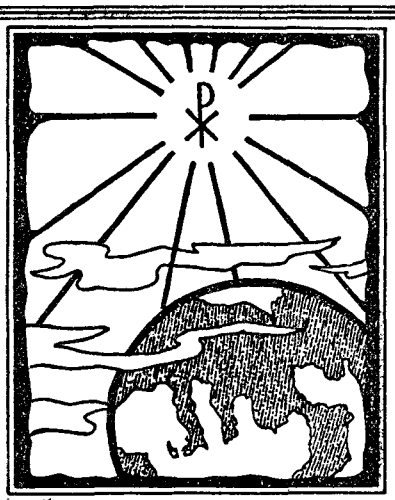

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which they can best succeed." With reference to the United States, Professor Rogers believes, with most students, that the development of presidential power is neither new nor alarming. This is a brief, stimulating and provocative volume.

RAYMOND M. GALLAGHER.

Anti-religious

The Origins of Modern Spain, by J. B. Trend. New York: The Macmillan Company. $2.50.

THE TITLE of this volume leads one to considerably broader historical visions than the author actually provides. After a few gossipy pages on Isabella II and the First Republic, the book proceeds to a series of biographical and appreciative sketches of the Spanish educators and liberals, Sanz del Rio, Francisco Giner, Salmeron, Costa, Azcárate and Cossio. These men, of the generation of 1868, are described as the fathers of modern Spain—the bearers of dawn in the intellectual night of nineteenth-century Spain to the new day of the present republic. Caustic references are made to "the traditional obstacles" of intellectual freedom and progress in Spain, which are revealed to mean the Catholic clergy and religious orders.

Thus, under the cloak of biography, the book is really an attack upon the Catholic educational system in Spain during the past one hundred years. "Spanish education as controlled by the religious orders," says the author, "should stand condemned for all time on the results of 1875-1931." With this thesis, he attempts to show that the statutes of the present Constitution eliminating the religious orders from the education of youth and establishing state control of education came as the inevitable result of a cultural crusade carried on from Sanz del Rio to Cossio. The secularization of the schools he represents as the supreme legislative achievement and distinguishing mark of modern Spain. His only regret is that the republicans in their hour of triumph, instead of suppressing the religious orders, legalized them and gave them votes.

The conclusions of Professor Trend, however, cannot be properly evaluated without grasping his underlying premises. His difficulty is not so much with the educational methods of the religious orders as with the doctrinal basis of the Catholic Church. The pontifical pronouncements of Pope Pius IX, he asserts, came "to seal the divorce of Roman Catholic dogma from modern civilization." Therefore he hails as a brave and indeed essential step toward progressive scholarship the renunciations of Catholic faith made by the Spanish liberals whom he glorifies. And in agreeing with Giner that a teacher should "not anticipate judgments which [a child] cannot make for himself," he means to conclude that religious instruction as imparted in Catholic schools should be banned.

This sectarian point of view, grounded in radical opposition to the Catholic faith and to the intellectual and moral responsibilities which that faith implies, leaves no room for an appreciative review of the magnificent work done by the religious orders of Spain for the Spanish youth during a succession of apathetic and often hostile governments. It has no time for a sympathetic notice of

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the Catholic laymen whose contributions to culture and science entitle them to a high place, not only in Spain, but also in the world at large. Even Menéndez y Pelayo, one of the greatest humanists of modern times, is dismissed by the author as a "narrow scholastic nature." The clergy are given small shrift. The portrait of the Venerable Antonio Maria Claret, the author remarks blithely, "makes it possible to believe him capable of anything."

As an exposition of the formation and viewpoint of the intellectuals who forecast the anti-Catholic educational clauses of the Constitution and of an anti-clerical school of Spanish criticism, this book is an interesting and at times stimulating statement. For a broad and impartial study of the various forces which are still in ferment to place Spain upon a secure and progressive basis, it leaves, to say the least, a great deal to be desired.

JAMES A. MAGNER.

A Beguiling Thousand Pages

The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse. Chosen by H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. New York: Oxford University Press. $3.00.

THE DIFFERENCE between a good anthology and a poor one is largely the result of avoiding literary temptation in every possible form. One must practise the asceticism of a true poet, to begin with, cherishing the art with honest personal affection. Then there must be no trafficking with other beauties, either because they have long enjoyed a meretricious public favor or because they have been forgotten so long that their unfamiliarity is beguiling. After such preparation the anthology may, indeed, sin by omission (as Palgrave's did), but it will not wear thin even while the reader considers it.

I do not think that Professors Grierson and Bullough have made a perfect book from this point of view. They seem to have curried favor with the scholar and so to have dignified into poems sets of stanzas which possess only an historical interest. Nor have they been without bias from even the antiquarian point of view. If one is going to include lumbering pieces from Ramsay's "Tea-table Miscellany," doubtless for Scotland's sake since there exists no other reason, then why not a passage from old Benlowes or one of Alexander's sonnets?

Nevertheless that is about all the criticism one can offer. The scholarly bent of the compilers has unearthed a handful of beautiful poems, hardly available otherwise, such as William Basse's "Elegy on Shakespeare" and the Thomas Ken "Hymns." Their fondness for good verse is illustrated by the way in which they have combed Donne, Drayton, Jonson, Crashaw, Dryden and the other great poets. If one remembers that only a generation ago the seventeenth century was generally ignored and even despised, it is really astonishing to see what treasures modern research and objective criticism have unearthed. This book has nearly a thousand pages of constantly varying, infinitely beguiling, goodness. It will rank with its peers in the Oxford series as a source of delight no one can with impunity pass by.

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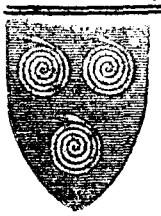
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Briefer Mention

Canadian Anti-Trust Legislation, by John A. Ball, Jr. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. $2.00.

THIS is almost completely an expository work, listing the provisions of the Canadian laws regulating big business, and showing how they were enforced, what conditions brought them forth, and, indirectly, the economic history of Canada for fifty years. The book records an enormous list of business practises which have made capitalism what it is today, and also show the legislative mind of the past fifty years going along in its innocuous orbit, not interfering with the progress of business enterprise. In Canada, as here, the powers first seemed to object to big business as such, and then from 1889 to 1910, it became too obvious that business was here anyway and couldn't be overlooked, so the "detrimental to public interest" idea supplanted indiscriminate public trust baiting. Investigation and publicity have been used to make combines and trusts polite. Other legal measures have almost invariably been avoided. It is quite incomprehensible how the author could find the mild check on unbridled business brutality afforded by the Act of 1923 "a successful experience" in the face of the present and past political, economic and social condition of Canada.

Fiesta in Mexico, by Erna Ferguson. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $3.00.

MISS FERGUSON had a splendid time visiting Mexican towns during fiesta days, and she manages to communicate a great deal of her enjoyment. These celebrations are, as she carefully notes, old pagan rites stripped of horror and cruelty by an assimilating and sublimating Catholicism. She is not sure—nor are we—that all of it is really Christian, but she rightly sees that so much Christianity is contained in the blend that many years must pass before the Mexican forgets what he has learned from the Church. Perhaps the fiesta will be a thing forgotten in a few generations. Perhaps not. Meanwhile one can get the tang of the interesting reality from this book, without having to suffer the physical hardships involved in going to look for oneself.

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